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## FACSIMILE COVER SHEET

FROM:

Alex R. Pagano, Reg. No. 44,994

Re: U.S. Patent No. 10/717,856

Date

January 27, 2005

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To:

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment (Art Unit 1731)

FAX NO.: 703-872-9306

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

VOICE NO.:

**Items**:

(1) Reply under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 (7 sheets);

(2) Extension Of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1,136(a) (1 sheet);

(3) Duplicate Extension Of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) (1 sheet); and

(4) This fax cover (1 sheet).

TOTAL PAGES (WITH COVER)

10

CLIENT ID/MATTER #:

V8998-6

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Fax No. 703-872-9306 on January 27, 2005.

Alexander R. Pagano Reg. No. 44,994 Attorney for Applicant

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of E. Mies Serial No.: 10/717,856

Filing Date: November 19, 2003

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR

FORMING LOW OPTICAL LOSS

**SPLICES** 

Attorney Docket No. V8998-6

Examiner: J. M. Hoffmann

Art Unit: 1731

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

## REPLY TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

SIR:

In response to the Non-Final Office Action mailed September 27, 2004 (the "Office Action"), please enter the following amendments and remarks into the file of the above-captioned application (the "Application"). Claim amendments are set forth below.